



**CITY OF SOUTH PASADENA
NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**

A G E N D A
REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, JANUARY 27, 2025, AT 6:30 P.M.

**CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
1424 MISSION STREET, SOUTH PASADENA, CA 91030**

South Pasadena Commission Statement of Civility

As your appointed governing board, we will treat each other, members of the public, and city employees with patience, civility and courtesy as a model of the same behavior we wish to reflect in South Pasadena for the conduct of all city business and community participation. The decisions made today will be for the benefit of the South Pasadena community and not for personal gain.

NOTICE ON PUBLIC PARTICIPATION & ACCESSIBILITY

The South Pasadena Natural Resources and Environmental Commission Meeting will be conducted in-person from the Council Chambers, Amedee O. "Dick" Richards, Jr., located at 1424 Mission Street, South Pasadena.

The meeting will be available:

- In Person – **Council Chambers 1424 Mission Street South Pasadena**
- Via Zoom – **Webinar ID: 880 7206 2700**

To maximize public safety while still maintaining transparency and public access, members of the public can observe the meeting via Zoom in one of the three methods below.

1. Go to the Zoom website, <https://zoom.us/join> and enter the Zoom Meeting information; or
2. Click on the following unique Zoom meeting link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88072062700>; or
3. You may listen to the meeting by calling +1-669-900-6833 and entering the Zoom Meeting ID.

CALL TO ORDER:

Chair Emily Ng

ROLL CALL:

Chair Emily Ng
Commissioner Liam R. de Villa Bourke
Commissioner Casey Law
Commissioner Michael Noe
Commissioner Alex Rajewski
Commissioner Margaret Yi

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Chair Emily Ng

PUBLIC COMMENT

1. GENERAL (NON-AGENDA ITEMS)**ACTION****2. SELECTION OF OFFICERS****3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF DECEMBER 16, 2025, NREC SPECIAL MEETING**Recommendation

It is recommended that the Commission review and approve the December 16, 2025 Special Meeting Minutes.

PRESENTATION**4. TREE ORDINANCE UPDATE****5. SB 1383 TRANSITION UPDATE****COMMUNICATIONS****6. CITY COUNCIL LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS****7. COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATIONS****8. STAFF LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS****9. UPCOMING EVENTS**

- January MWD Landscape Training – **Rain to Roots: Water for Your Garden** | **January 29** | Virtual Webinar | 6PM-7:15PM | <https://upperwater.org/water-smart-workshops-2/>
- February MWD Landscape Training – **Garden Design Seminar** | **February 21** | Library Community Room | 10AM -11:45AM | <https://upperwater.org/water-smart-workshops-2/>
- March MWD Landscape Training – **Outdoor Leaks Waste Water** | **March 19** | Virtual Webinar | 6PM-7PM | <https://greengardensgroup.com/g3-events/outdoor-leak-detection-usgv-260319/>
- April MWD Landscape Training – **Protect the Pollinators** | **April 16** | Virtual Webinar | 6PM-7:15PM | <https://greengardensgroup.com/g3-events/protect-the-pollinators-upper-water-260416/>
- Household Hazardous Waste Collection Events (www.cleanla.lacounty.gov/hhw)
- LA County Smart Gardening Workshops & Webinars (www.cleanla.lacounty.gov/smartgardening)
- MWD Turf Removal + CA Native Landscape Webinars (www.greengardensgroup.com/turf-transformation)

ADJOURNMENT

FOR YOUR INFORMATION**FUTURE NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETINGS**

January 27, 2026	Regular Meeting	6:30 p.m.
March 24, 2026	Regular Meeting	6:30 p.m.
May 26, 2026	Regular Meeting	6:30 p.m.

PUBLIC ACCESS TO AGENDA DOCUMENTS AND BROADCASTING OF MEETINGS

Commission meeting agenda packets, any agenda related documents, and additional documents are available online for public inspection on the City's website:

<https://www.southpasadenaca.gov/government/boards-commissions>

Meeting recordings will be available for public viewing after the meeting. Recordings will be uploaded to the City's YouTube Channel no later than the next business day after the meeting. The City's YouTube Channel may be accessed at:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCnR169ohzi1AlewD_6sfwDA/featured

AGENDA NOTIFICATION SUBSCRIPTION

If you wish to receive an agenda email notification please contact the Sustainability Division via email at NRECPublicComment@SouthPasadenaCA.gov or call (626) 403-7240.

ACCOMMODATIONS

The City of South Pasadena wishes to make all of its public meetings accessible to the public. If special assistance is needed to participate in this meeting, please contact the City Clerk's Division at (626) 403-7230 or CityClerk@southpasadenaca.gov. Upon request, this agenda will be made available in appropriate alternative formats to persons with disabilities. Notification at least 48 hours prior to the meeting will assist staff in assuring that reasonable arrangements can be made to provide accessibility to the meeting (28 CFR 35.102-35.104 ADA Title II).

CERTIFICATION OF POSTING

*I declare under penalty of perjury that I posted this notice of agenda for the meeting to be held on **January 27, 2026**, on the bulletin board in the courtyard of City Hall at 1414 Mission Street, South Pasadena, CA 91030, and on the City's website as required by law, on the date listed below.*

1/22/2026

Danielle Garcia

Date

Danielle Garcia, Water Conservation Analyst

Item 3

Approval of Minutes of December 16, 2025 NREC
Special Meeting Minutes



**CITY OF SOUTH PASADENA
NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**

**MINUTES
SPECIAL MEETING
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2025, AT 6:30 P.M.**

**CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
1424 MISSION STREET, SOUTH PASADENA, CA 91030**

PRESENT:

Chair	Emily Ng
Vice Chair	Michael Siegel
Commissioner	Liam R. de Villa Bourke
Commissioner	Casey Law
Commissioner	Alex Rajewski
Commissioner	Margaret Yi

ABSENT:

Commissioner	Michael Noe
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PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Chair	Emily Ng
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PUBLIC COMMENT

1. GENERAL (NON-AGENDA ITEMS)

In Person Public Comments:

None.

Zoom Public Comments:

Angelo Gladding provided promotion for the Save South Pasadena Tree's website. Specifically noting the preliminary review indicating numerous tree removal permits and limited on-site replacements in recent years.

PRESENTATION

2. 4TH OF JULY SKY SHOW OPTIONS

Melissa Snyder, Community Services Deputy Director, presented an overview of potential show formats for South Pasadena's Fourth of July celebration and requested the Commission's recommendation to City Council on a preferred format. The presentation included background on Council direction to evaluate alternatives, a summary of proposal

types, durations and cost ranges within the overall event budget. Additionally, Melissa outlined next steps for Council consideration and vendor contract award in early 2026.

In Person Public Comments:

Tucker Nelson urged commissioners to recommend against fireworks, citing concerns about noise and air pollution impacts on public health, pets, wildlife, and the environment. Additionally encouraged using the 250th anniversary as an opportunity to adopt alternative, less harmful celebration formats.

Zoom Public Comments:

Angelo Gladding suggested that, in light of the 250th anniversary this is a good opportunity to spend the extra money and avoid the air quality concerns associated with firework shows. Additionally adding that having both shows would be good to compare against and inform decisions moving forward.

COMMISSION ACTION & MOTION

A motion was made by Commissioner Law, seconded by Vice Chair Siegel and approved by roll call vote for the approval of an all drone show with a minimum budget of \$50,000. The motion carried 6-0-1, by the following vote:

AYES: Ng, Siegel, De Villa Bourke, Law, Rakewski, Yi

NOES: None.

ABSENT: Noe

ABSTAINED: None.

ACTION

3. ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION SETTING THE DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF REGULAR COMMISSION MEETINGS

Danielle Garcia, Water Conservation Management Analyst, presented a City Council approved resolution for the commissioners review and action, recommending adoption of the dates, times and locations for regular commission meetings for the 2026 calendar year.

In Person Public Comments:

None.

Zoom Public Comments:

Angelo Gladding noted that this is the first year the Commission has shifted to an every-other-month meeting schedule, possibly related to reduced interactions on tree ordinance matters, and emphasized for new commissioners that this represents a change from prior practice.

COMMISSION ACTION & MOTION

A motion was made by Commissioner Yi, seconded by Commissioner Rajewski to approve this resolution and the proposed dates. The motion carried 6-0-1, by the following vote:

AYES: Ng, Siegel, De Villa Bourke, Law, Rakewski, Yi

NOES: None.

ABSENT: Noe

ABSTAINED: None.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 23, 2025 NREC REGULAR MEETING

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Commission review and approve the September 23, 2025 Regular Natural Resources & Environmental Commission Meeting Minutes.

COMMISSION ACTION & MOTION

A motion was made by Commissioner Rajewski, seconded by Vice Chair Siegel to approve the September 23, 2025 Natural Resources & Environmental Commission regular meeting minutes. The motion carried 6-0-1, by the following vote:

AYES: Ng, Siegel, De Villa Bourke, Law, Rakewski, Yi

NOES: None.

ABSENT: Noe

ABSTAINED: None.

COMMUNICATIONS

5. CITY COUNCIL LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS

Councilmember Cacciotti provided a brief regional update on air quality initiatives, electrification funding, open space preservation near South Pasadena and progress on the Gold Line extension.

6. COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATIONS

Commissioner De Villa Bourke requested that the revised tree ordinance be agendized for further discussion, expressing concern that the new tree classifications and broad discretion could unintentionally reduce canopy coverage and urging stronger safeguards, supplemental planning and more holistic, bio-diversity based approach.

Vice Chair Siegel thanked the Commission, staff, and community for the opportunity to serve, reflected on the value of civic engagement, and encouraged bold implementation of existing plans—particularly the Climate Action Plan—to shape the City's future.

Chair Ng thanked staff, Council, departing Vice Chair Siegel, and the Commission for a productive year, welcomed the new commissioners, and expressed appreciation for the group's contributions and optimism for the year ahead.

Commissioner Law thanked Vice Chair Siegel for their service and remarks, and urged the City to prioritize and fund an urban forestry management plan alongside the tree ordinance to build community confidence and clearly articulate a long-term vision for the urban forest.

Commissioner Yi thanked Vice Chair Siegel, fellow commissioners, staff, and the public for the discussions and learning opportunities over the past year, and expressed appreciation for the Commission's work and optimism for the year ahead.

Commissioner Rajewski thanked fellow commissioners, staff, and the public for their contributions, and offered specific praise to Ms. Garcia for effectively leading the recent West Side Reservoir meeting, noting it was informative and well run.

7. STAFF LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS

Danielle Garcia, Water Conservation Management Analyst and Michael Vartanians, Principal Engineer thanked the Commission and Vice Chair Siegel for their service, shared appreciation for community participation in the West Side Reservoir meeting, along with a pocket park grand opening announcement. Staff also provided a brief update on recent ad hoc Climate Action Plan discussions with City Council members, noting efforts to assess progress and refine achievable next steps, and thanked the Commission for its engagement throughout the year.

8. UPCOMING EVENTS

- Household Hazardous Waste Collection Events
(www.cleanla.lacounty.gov/hhw)
- LA County Smart Gardening Workshops & Webinars
(www.cleanla.lacounty.gov/smartgardening)
- MWD Turf Removal + CA Native Landscape Webinars
(www.greengardensgroup.com/turf-transformation)

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further matters, Chair Ng adjourned the meeting of the Natural resources and Environmental Commission at 7:40PM to the next Regular Commission meeting scheduled for March 24, 2026.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

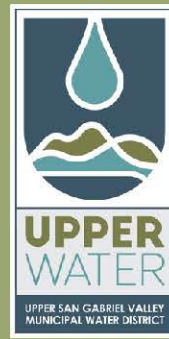
FUTURE NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETINGS

January 27, 2026	Regular Meeting	6:30 p.m.
March 24, 2026	Regular Meeting	6:30 p.m.
May 26, 2026	Regular Meeting	6:30 p.m.

Item 9

Upcoming Events

SPRING 2026 LANDSCAPING WORKSHOPS



FREE



Rain to Roots: Water for Your Garden

Learn practical ways to turn
rain into a resource

VIRTUAL

THURSDAY, JANUARY 29, 2026

6:00 PM - 7:15 PM



Garden Design Seminar

Learn how to design a
watershed wise landscape

IN-PERSON

SOUTH PASADENA LIBRARY COMMUNITY ROOM
1115 EL CENTRO STREET
SOUTH PASADENA, CA 91030

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2026

10:00 AM - 11:45 AM



Outdoor Leaks Waste Water

Learn how to spot and
prevent outdoor leaks

VIRTUAL

THURSDAY, MARCH 19, 2026

6:00 PM - 7:00 PM



Protect the Pollinators

Learn how to create a
pollinator-friendly garden

VIRTUAL

THURSDAY, APRIL 16, 2026

6:00 PM - 7:15 PM



VISIT: [HTTPS://UPPERWATER.ORG/WATER-SMART-WORKSHOPS-2/](https://upperwater.org/water-smart-workshops-2/)

FOR QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT KATHERINE VAZQUEZ AT
KATHERINE@USGVMWD.ORG OR (626) 443-2297 EXT. 404